



Bringing a study to the ASTN*

The ASTN Research Committee is now meeting regularly to assess whether proposed studies meet the ASTN mission and can be recommended to the Executive for ASTN assistance, and to offer advice to researchers to improve their prospects of attracting external funding.

Current members of the Research Committee are researchers Dr Sutapa Mukherjee (Chair), Dr Alister Neill, Professor Leon Lack and Dr Maree Barnes, CI representatives Professor Rob Pierce and Professor Doug McEvoy, consumer representative Mr Jeff Kirby, biostatistician Dr Wei Xuan and health economist Mr Duncan Mortimer. The Committee can co-opt additional members when particular outside expertise is needed.

The Committee welcomes study proposals for multicentre studies in any field of sleep health. Researchers are asked to complete the ASTN Study Proposal Form (available on the website) and to send it to the National Project Officer with a lead time of at least 3 weeks before a Committee meeting. The Committee might ask for additional details in the lead-up to the meeting and might invite the researcher to phone in to join part of the discussion of the proposal. A decision is made, immediately or after further development of the proposal, about the suitability of the study to fulfil the mission of the ASTN. The Committee is looking for high quality, adequately powered, intervention studies involving at least 2 sites, with good justification from the literature and perhaps preliminary data, and can help researchers to develop proposals and collect preliminary data where needed. For studies meeting the mission, a recommendation is made to the ASTN Executive that they study be adopted as an ASTN Endorsed Study. A degree of ASTN resourcing, appropriate to the study, can be committed for these studies, and can be put forward in grant applications. Network resources include facilities for recruitment of subjects, biostatistician and health economist advice, advice on outcomes measurement, central data management, inter-lab quality control, bioinformatics.

For a small number of particularly high impact studies, very extensive support and input will be available. These will be ASTN-Supported Studies.

Further details including Research Committee terms of reference and ASTN policy documents are available on the website at www.sleeptrials.net.

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